

From: [Alt, Nicole](#)
To: [Hughes, John P](#); [Broderdorp, Kurt](#)
Cc: [Williams-shuck, Kathryn L](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Wolf EIS Cooperating Agency Request
Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:27:40 PM
Attachments: [CA request to FWS - KG.pdf](#)

Another request.

Nicole Alt
Colorado Ecological Services Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lakewood, Colorado
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nicole_alt@fws.gov

The Colorado Ecological Services Office is moving toward 100% electronic project and technical assistance requests. To aid timely responses, please submit all requests to us via email. Send projects to: eastern slope - ColoradoES@fws.gov, or western slope - GrandJunctionES@fws.gov.

From: Owen - CDA, Les <les.owen@state.co.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:53 PM
To: Alt, Nicole <Nicole_Alt@fws.gov>; Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf EIS Cooperating Agency Request

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Hi Matt and Nicole,
Attached please find a formal request from the Colorado Department of Agriculture to participate as a cooperating agency in the NEPA process for the prospective 10(j) rule for gray wolves in Colorado. I will be the primary contact for CDA for this. I will get a hard copy of this request in the mail soon. I wanted to get the request to you as soon as possible as I know there is an aggressive timeframe for this analysis, and the scoping notice is likely under development. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information and what the next steps are.

Thank you,
Les
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Les Owen
Conservation Services Division Director



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May 20, 2022

Nicole Alt
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
134 Union Blvd
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Alt:

It is our understanding that the Colorado Ecological Services Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will be initiating the process to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the EIS is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of promulgating an Experimental Non-Essential Population rule pursuant to Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act to facilitate reintroduction efforts for the gray wolf in Colorado.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's (CDA) mission is to strengthen and advance Colorado agriculture; promote a safe, high quality, and sustainable food supply; and protect consumers, and foster responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources. It is with this mission in mind that we formally request to serve as a Cooperating Agency in the preparation of the EIS.

The Council on Environmental Quality's regulations define "special expertise" as consisting of at least one of the following: statutory responsibility; agency mission; or related program experience. CDA's mission is germane to this analysis because of the potential impacts of wolf reintroduction on Colorado's livestock industry. Additionally, CDA has statutory responsibility related to depredating animals (CRS Title 35, Article 40) and program experience related to livestock production practices, range management, and associated economic and social impacts to inform the analysis.

CDA requests to participate in the environmental evaluation process in which FWS will act as the Lead Agency. CDA involvement will entail aspects of the EIS within our area of expertise. Though no direct writing analysis may be required from our agency in the preparation of the EIS, we will be providing comments as appropriate. We expect to be actively involved in all stages of the NEPA process as well as the contents of the document in order for the FEIS to provide a full and fair analysis of potential impacts.

We look forward to cooperating with FWS in the NEPA/EIS process. Our primary contact for this will be:

Les Owen
Conservation Services Division Director
575-202-0473
les.owen@state.co.us

Sincerely,

Kate Greenberg
Commissioner of Agriculture

